

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 22, 2016

*Background notes for Monday, January 25th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As Mike Retzky was the chairman on this committee, they needed to vote for a new chairman at their meeting this week, and Commissioner Chris Gerstel was unanimously chosen to be the new chairman! I'll work with Commissioner Gerstel to get him updated on the history of the project, and the finish tasks for this phase of work on the trail.

NEWMAN

The railings at the amphitheater area are due to be installed, today, weather permitting.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC has done their initial review of proposals with information provided to liaisons, and will now spend the next two meetings discussing the proposals with the proponents.

TOWN FOREST

A resident has repeatedly asked DPW to remove some old concrete pipes from the side of a trail in the Town Forest. As they are located next to an active stream, the Conservation Director and I walked the site with DPW staff this week to determine whether they can be moved. The pipes were from a culvert that was replaced in the 1970's. The access is challenging for construction vehicles, so some work will need to be done to reach the pipes from the fire road in the Town Forest. They will try to work on this project over the winter, when the ground is frozen to minimize damage to the trails. Conservation will not need to permit if the removal can be done without damage to the land adjacent to the stream.

We were on a main trail, and it was nice to see how much use it gets even when there is snow cover.

SKATE PARK

The issue of creating a skate park in Needham periodically comes before the Commission. In the past, committees of residents and Commission members have done some of the work to look at options, but typically stop prior to much progress being made. One of our seasonal staff members created a petition to get support from the Selectmen and Commission to build a skate park at Claxton. He has since removed the petition and I've suggested that he attend one of your February meetings for an informal discussion. There is a trust fund with about \$1,500 from a prior committee's fundraising. The trust fund can only be spent on a skate park project, and use of funds needs to be approved by the Commission.

PATRICK FORDE GOOD PERSON AWARD

Colleen Schaller will be presented with the Patrick Forde Good Person Award on Monday, January 25th. Past recipients are Louise Condon and Bill Dermody. Colleen is a long-time active member of the Exchange Club, served on the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Youth Commission, and is currently a member of the Council on Aging, and was instrumental in the work done on Center at the Heights. I served with Colleen on the board of Needham Cares. She has volunteered for efforts benefitting all ages in the Needham community!
